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OIC #78-0786/3

8 May 1978

DDI

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, IRC Working Group

FROM :

[Redacted]

Chairman, IRC Working Group

SUBJECT : Agenda for First Meeting of IRC Working Group

REFERENCE : Multiple addressee memorandum from John F. Blake  
dated 10 April 1978, Subject: Procedures Governing  
Release of CIA Information to the Public

1. The final report of the Agency Working Group to Study Release of CIA Information to the Public recommended the establishment of a "sub-IRC," composed of senior staff officers representing the members of the IRC, the General Counsel, the Legislative Council and the Director of Public Affairs. The report stipulated that "this group should meet regularly and its members should be tasked to communicate to their components information resulting from these meetings. Among other things, this group should address on a regular basis the possible impact on CIA by FOIA/PA releases of other Government agencies."

2. In reference the DDA requested the designation of members of an IRC Working Group, which he described as follows:

"I see this group as providing a forum in which policy questions concerning information release can be staffed out and in many cases resolved without directly involving the senior managers who comprise the IRC. Obviously, policy differences which cannot be resolved by the Working Group can and should be referred to the IRC for resolution."

3. The following officers have been named members of the IRC Working Group:

[Redacted]

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4. I would like to hold our first meeting at 3 p.m. on 11 May in 7D-32. Attached is an agenda and some background information on certain of the agenda items. For this and all subsequent meetings your suggestions for the agenda will be welcome.



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Attachment: a/s

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REGISTRATION

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INFORMATION REVIEW COMMITTEE  
WORKING GROUP

AGENDA  
11 MAY 1978

- A. IRC WORKING GROUP CHARTER
- B. CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS (BACKGROUND AT TAB A)
- C. FOIA BACKLASH (BACKGROUND AT TAB B)
- D. REQUESTS FROM CURRENT AND FORMER EMPLOYEES OR ASSOCIATES (BACKGROUND AT TAB C)
- E. DISCUSSION OF FOI/PA SYMPOSIUM AND "RAP" SESSIONS

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from Enclosure

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DDA 78-1772

26 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: John F. Blake  
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Classification Standards

REFERENCE: Memo dtd 21 Apr 78 to DDCI fr C/CCS, subj:  
Classification of Snepp Book Disclosures

Frank:

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1. [redacted] memorandum on classification raises a good point and I agree that a review of these matters is needed. One forum we might use is the Information Review Committee (IRC), or more precisely the newly-established IRC Working Group, which includes senior representatives of NFAC, DDA, DDO, DDS&T, PAO, OGC, and OLC. I have asked that this question be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of the new Working Group to be held early in May.

2. The new Executive order on national security information, replacing E.O. 11652, is in final draft stage and should be issued soon, with an effective date of 1 October. The order contains classification criteria and requires each Agency with classification authority to promulgate "guidelines for security classification that will facilitate the identification and uniform classification of information requiring protection." Whatever we do at this time to clarify our concepts on classification should be designed to help us meet our responsibilities under the new order.

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[redacted]  
F. Blake

Att:  
Ref memo

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UPON REMOVAL OF AXX

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21 April 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Chairman, Snepp Book Working Group

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SUBJECT:

Classification of Snepp Book  
Disclosures

REFERENCE:

[REDACTED]  
11 Apr 78, Same Subject

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1. The attached memorandum from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] although addressing the specific case of  
material in the Snepp book, deals with a problem of  
wider concern:

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The lack of consensus in the Agency  
as to what is and what is not classified  
and its increasing adverse impact on the  
future effectiveness of the Clandestine  
Service.

2. It seems utterly incongruous that the President -  
as reported by John McMahon last Wednesday - is most  
anxious to protect methods and sources of the Clandestine  
Service and we seem to have greater and greater difficulty  
in deciding what material requires protection through  
continued classification. A review of these matters  
at the Agency level and implementation of remedial actions  
are very much needed.

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Att: REF Memo

cc:

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12 APR 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Information, DDA

25X1 FROM : [REDACTED]  
Chief, Information and Privacy Staff

SUBJECT : Proposal for Sub-IRC Discussion

With the increased frequency and complexity of requests emanating from current and former associates under a variety of cover situations and relationships with the Agency, I believe we should establish some general guidelines in the release of information to these requesters. Following is proposed as a discussion paper which you may wish to present to the newly established sub-IRC. As a starting point, I have classified Agency relationships into four categories, with suggested responses for each, keeping in mind that any grouping can still have its exceptions.

Category A:

Current employees or associates, former employees or associates who are witting and have signed a secrecy agreement and who are currently under cover, retired under cover, or were previously under cover and where intelligence sources and methods require continued protection of that cover.

RESPONSE: Current employees will be provided the opportunity of a review of their file within the Agency in accordance with paragraph [REDACTED] Documents that relate to CIA association could be made available to employees via classified transmittal and storage. Any use of this information by the employee in the public domain for legal or other purposes will be subject to security and cover approval and arrangements. 25X1

Previous associates and "blocked" former employees who have filed an overt Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act request regarding their relationship with CIA will be advised that we "can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any records relevant to your request." If the matter needs further attention, the requester will be advised to establish a dialogue

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with the Agency via classified channels at Headquarters or via a field representative.

Category B:

Current employees or associates or previous employees or associates who at one time were under cover but are now either overt or who retired as overt CIA employees.

RESPONSE: A release of all accessible FOIA/PA material will be made, assuring that any documents that reflect a previous cover arrangement are not released to the individual or put into the public domain.

Category C:

Confidential contacts or associates where the confidentiality of the Agency relationship is for the privacy and convenience of the contact and the association does not involve sensitive intelligence sources and methods.

RESPONSE: If it is understood in the form of the request or subsequent communications with the contact that the person would prefer the release of available documents directly to himself, despite the implied confidentiality, then all available FOIA/PA information would be released. Any subsequent release of this information into the public sector would be at the discretion of the contact.

Category D:

Unwitting associates or agents where continued protection of that source or of that intelligence method is required.

RESPONSE: Requesters under the Privacy Act will be notified that "Pursuant to our regulations promulgated in the Federal Register, the Agency conducted a search of its files and has determined that there is no record which is available to you."

Under the Freedom of Information Act, the requester will be advised that the fact of any relationship with the CIA can neither be confirmed nor denied on the basis of (b)(1) and (b)(3).

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